

May 22, 2003

Montana Medicaid Notice

Outpatient Hospital and Ambulance Providers

Air Transport Changes Effective August 1, 2003

As part of the current hospital rule (MAR Notice No. 37-292), the Department is proposing that effective August 1, 2003, Medicaid will no longer reimburse neonates and high-risk pregnant women through the outpatient hospital program. All air transports will be reimbursed through the ambulance program. In order to be reimbursed for air transports, providers will need to enroll separately as an ambulance provider. The following table shows the increases in the air transport reimbursement.

| Air Transport Reimbursement | | | | |
|------------------------------------|--|---|--|----------------------------|
| Procedure Code | Procedure Description | Current Reimbursement (Effective 7/1/03) | Proposed Reimbursement (Effective 8/1/03) | Percentage Increase |
| A0430 | Ambulance – Air Transport (Fixed Wing) | \$909.54 | \$1546.22 | 70% |
| A0431 | Ambulance – Air Transport (Rotary) | \$909.54 | \$1546.22 | 70% |
| A0435 | Mileage (Fixed) | \$3.00 per mile | \$3.75 per mile | 25% |
| A0436 | Mileage (Rotary) | \$8.00 per mile | \$10.00 per mile | 25% |

Providers must obtain prior authorization for all scheduled ambulance services and authorization within 60 days for all non-scheduled ambulance services prior to submitting a claim. The only exception to this rule is when a client has both Medicare and Medicaid. For these clients, authorization is not required for non-scheduled transportation.

A public hearing regarding the proposed hospital rules will be held on June 16, 2003, at 2:00 p.m. in the auditorium of the Department of Public Health and Human Services Building, 111 N. Sanders, Helena, Montana to consider the proposed adoption, amendment and repeal of the above-stated rules. Interested persons may submit their data, views or arguments either orally or in writing at the hearing. Written data, views or arguments may also be submitted no later than 5:00 p.m. on June 19, 2003 to:

Dawn Sliva, Office of Legal Affairs
Department of Public Health and Human Services
P.O. Box 4210
Helena, MT 59604-4210

A full copy of the proposed hospital rules can be located on our website at **<http://www.dphhs.state.mt.us>**, click on *Legal Section* followed by *Montana Administrative Register* and then on *Proposal Notices*.

Contact Information

For questions regarding the air transport reimbursement or procedures, please contact Duane Preshinger, Acute Section Supervisor at (406) 444-4144 or Deb Stipcich, Hospital Program Officer at (406) 444-4834.